

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 161351Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6156
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 25556

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, MT, LY, FR
SUBJECT: MALTA'S LIBYAN OPTION

REF: STATE 204506

1. IN OUR RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH QUAI OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR MALTA THEY HAVE NOT REPEAT NOT BEEN NOTICEABLY EXCITED BY THE POSSIBILITY THAT MINTOFF MIGHT PLAY HIS LIBYAN CARD. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT THE FRENCH BELIEVE MINTOFF WOULD TAKE A NUMBER OF SYMBOLIC STEPS WITH THE LIBYANS AS WARNINGS TO THE WEST AND TO BUILD UP PRESSURE FOR A LARGER WESTERN FINANCIAL PACKAGE BEFORE HE WOULD GO BEYOND ACCEPTABLE LIMITS IN HIS RELATIONS WITH QADHAFI. THESE STEPS WOULD BE ONE ASPECT OF THE MINTOFF STYLE OF NEGOTIATION, AND THE QUAI APPEARS PREPARED FOR THEM AS PART OF THE
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DRAWN-OUT NEGOTIATING PROCESS THEY NOW ANTICIPATE.

2. IN LIGHT OF THE ABOVE WE BELIEVE OUR PRESENT PATTERN OF PERIODIC DISCUSSIONS OF MALTA WITH THE QUAI IS PROBABLY APPROPRIATE, AND WOULD WISH TO AVOID PROMOTING MORE INTENSIFIED DISCUSSIONS WHICH THE FRENCH MIGHT INTERPRET AS PRESSURE.

HARTMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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